The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Madam, I move:

> "That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one Member from Rajya Sabha vice Shri Vayalar Ravi retired from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Accounts of the Lok Sabha for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee and do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

Re: PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Madam, with your permission, I would like to say two words on the problems being faced by khadi and village industries. Madam, khadi is not a piece of cloth, but as Mahatma Gandhi stated, it represents a thought process. The spinning and weaving of khadi became a powerful weapon in our freedom struggle. And today happens to be the Quit India day, and therefore, it is appropriate that we should be discussing also the great importance of khadi in the revitalization of our village economy. Madam, some years ago when the Congress Government was in power at the Centre, the then Prime Minister had given instructions that we ought to formulate a new, comprehensive policy package for dealing with the problems of khadi and village industries. He set up a Committee. The Prime Minister himself was the Chairman of that Committee. The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission was the Vice-Chairman, I was a member and several distinguished representatives of the khadi industry were also members of that Committee. That high-powered Committee came with a unanimous report. But I find, Madam, that there is a great unrest among the khadi workers. Because of the growing uncertainty about the admissibility of rebate, also the growing uncertainty about the availability of